



MEDIA RELEASE

Part of a Unique Memorial Stolen from Strauss Airstrip

Part of a unique memorial that serves as a permanent reminder of Darwin's frontline role during World War II has been stolen from the heritage listed Strauss Airstrip, approximately 60km south of Darwin.

Heritage Conservation Services director Michael Wells said the incident involving three life size aluminium cut-out fighter planes was reported to police earlier today, who will investigate the matter.

Mr Wells said the cut-outs and new visitor facilities were unveiled in August last year to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

"Strauss Airstrip, dating from 1942-45, is one of the last surviving and most intact World War II pursuit fighter installations in northern Australia," Mr Wells said.

"Strauss was used by large numbers of American and British aircraft during the war, and has associations with Australia's engagement during the 20th Century in the crucial alliance with the United States and Great Britain."

Under section 33 of the *Heritage Conservation Act* it is an offence to interfere with a heritage listed site.

Anyone with information about the suspected theft of the almost life size aircraft cut outs are urged to contact Northern Territory police on 131 444.

Ends

Media Note – Northern Territory police are now investigating the theft of the three aluminium cut-out fighter planes. Media are urged to direct their queries about the investigation to Northern Territory police.

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